

RUSHVILLE CITY COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2012
6:00 P.M.

The Rushville City Common Council met on the above date and time at 270 W 15th Street, Rushville, Indiana. Mayor Pavey called the meeting to order at 6:18 p.m., with Bob Bridges, Brian Conner, Craig Smith, Brad Berkemeier and Brian Sheehan answering roll call. Also present were City Attorney, Julie Newhouse, Mike Selke, WIFE Radio, and Melissa Conrad, *Rushville Republican*.

MINUTES

Minutes of the March 20, 2012 meeting were presented for approval. Berkemeier made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Conner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Pavey reported:

- The City will participate in Government Week May 14-May 18.
- There was a meeting last week on the Downtown Façade Program to see how much interest there was.
- Has contacted the businesses along Harcourt Way concerning the sidewalks. All 3 businesses are on board. Emerson needs to be contacted.
- The Chamber of Commerce is moving forward with a new direction.
- The leadership seminar is scheduled for April 19th.
- There was a problem with one of the water softeners at the Utility Plant. Some residents noticed the water was salty. The Utility Board is looking into manual controls.
- Pavey said he was thankful for the clean-up along highway 3.
- The Board of Works gave approval for the Fire Chief to move forward with steps toward demolition on several unsafe buildings.
- Pavey also said we need to consider repealing the unsafe ordinance that was adopted by Council in 1992 and adopting a current ordinance.
- Met with INDOT for the pre-final inspection on Main Street. There has been some concern about the trees. INDOT has indicated that they will replace any trees that are damaged. There was also discussion with INDOT about a truck route.
- Pavey gave Council a CD of the Indiana Elected Municipal Officials Handbook.
- Passed out an article written by Melissa Conrad entitled Partners for Progress.
- Officer Cale Worley will be hosting a Lego contest this Thursday at the Elementary School. Proceeds will benefit the DARE program.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Copley passed out the 2011 Area Plan Commission annual report. She also informed Council that she will be presenting a resolution at the next meeting borrowing money from various funds to the general fund.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

None.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Fire – Jenkins passed out a list of unsafe properties that the Board of Works approved to begin paperwork on for demolition.

Police – Tucker handed out the monthly/quarterly report.

He said they are in the background investigation portion of the hiring process.

They have been training on the AED's and plan to have them in the vehicles by next Wednesday.

Officer Ervin will begin training as a K-9 officer this month.

CITIZEN CONCERNS

Marcia Crowdus addressed Council about placing a 4 way stop sign in the vicinity of East 8th Street, Maple Street, and/or George Street. She said the study by the police department was evidently done on the wrong day or time. She said there was a concern in the neighborhood for the safety of the children. She said something needs to be done before someone is hurt. Crowdus said they have been asking for a stop sign for many years.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Traffic Study 8th & Maple – Chief Tucker reviewed the study conducted by 3 officers of the Police Department. He said on 3 occasions there were 3 officers posted in the area for a period of 1 hour each. They noted no excessive speed or traffic problems. Since 1992 there have been only 4 accidents in the area.

Councilman Smith questioned if some other type of vehicle other than a police vehicle should be posted in the area to get an unbiased view. Smith also said there have been 10 other stop signs placed in various areas of town and questioned if a study was done in each of these areas. He said there needs to be a break in the flow of traffic.

Councilman Sheehan stated that he and his children often ride their bikes in this area because of the light traffic in this part of town. He said there are a lot of children in this area. Sheehan's concern was that if we place a sign then there will be many more residents wanting a sign in all other areas of town.

Councilman Bridges asked if there had been any discussion with a traffic engineer. Chief Tucker said yes there was and they said the numbers did not support a sign in the area.

Councilman Berkemeier asked what other alternatives might be available. He told the residents he wanted to help alleviate their concerns. He suggested that maybe there needs to be more of a police presence.

A resident mentioned a “slow children at play” sign. Bridges said this is not legal

Councilman Conner asked if a speed bump would work. Pavey said this could cause a problem with snow removal, but said we might consider a temporary speed bump that could be removed in the winter.

Bridges made a motion to table the matter and have Chief Tucker look into the possibility of a temporary speed bump and report back to Council. Sheehan seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 4-1. Councilman Smith voted “nay”.

Comprehensive Plan – Joe Rathz informed Council that the last comprehensive plan was done in 2003 or 2004 and it should be reviewed and updated every 5 years. He asked the Mayor to put together a committee of approximately 10 people to work on the new plan. Sheehan made a motion for Smith to serve on the committee representing the Council, and Berkemeier to represent the Area Plan. Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Resolution 2012-5 Indiana Livestock Friendly Counties – Jim Finan said it was decided that they were a little too aggressive with the program and they have decided to do more research to better develop the program. Finan thanked Council for their consideration to adopt the resolution. The resolution was not passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2012-3 Board of Works Transfer – Bridges made a motion to approve Resolution 2012-3. Conner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Resolution 2012-4 Transfer from Electric Liquidation and CCI Funds – Sheehan made a motion to approve Resolution 2012-4. Berkemeier seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vandalism in Park/Downtown – Pavey said he is hoping the Park Patrol will help to alleviate some of the vandalism. Pavey said he received a call from a parent of a child that was told to stay out of the park due to vandalism he had been involved in while in the park. The parent asked if the child could do work in the park and then be allowed to return to the park. He praised the parent for being proactive in the matter. Chief Tucker said he appreciates the support of the community and encouraged the help of the new park patrol.

Porter Sign Contract – Bridges made a motion to approve the 2 contracts with Porter signs for \$10,000.00 each for a period of 5 years, for a total of \$20,000.00. The full amount

would be paid up front. Bridges made a motion to approve the contract. Sheehan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Contractor/Landlord Dumping – Pavey said we need to think about if this is a practice we want to get into. Bridges said he thought, per IDEM, that we cannot take contractor's trash.

Yard Sale Policy – Pavey said we are beginning to receive complaints regarding rummage sales. We need to decide what we are going to do and be consistent regarding continuance yard sales. Bridges said it was specified in the zoning ordinance. Jenkins said the question is who enforces this. Melissa Conrad said she thought the City had passed an ordinance. Pavey said we need to have a contingency plan as to how many can you have, who enforces it, how do you enforce it, is there a dollar amount on a permit, block rummage sales, vs. church rummage sales, and then it becoming a zoning violation. We will look into this further at the next meeting.

Greg Hartwell, The Gathering – Pavey introduced Greg Hartwell from The Gathering. They are in the process of purchasing the old Danner's building. They are very excited to become a part of the community. Their goal is to help with many needs the community may have such as help with the senior citizens, special needs people, and kitchen ministry. There is no charge for their service, but a free will offering is encouraged. Sheehan said they may need to check with the State to place a sign since it is on a state highway. Bridges suggested the use of a portable sign that can be rolled out on certain days and times. Hartwell said he can be reached at 561-1134.

Traffic Study - John McCane stated that he would like the record to show that his record of taking down signs, as Mayor seems to be at least even to putting them up. Smith questioned the sign at Sexton and 11th Streets. McCane said the only problem there was before school and after school let out. He said they actually had a police officer there directing traffic during this time. McCane said every time a sign was put up during his administration there was an analysis done to determine the need. It was all a matter as to whether a sign was needed for safety reasons.

Claims – Conner made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Berkemeier seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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There was no further business to come before Council; Bridges made a motion to adjourn. Berkemeier seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

MICHAEL P. PAVEY, MAYOR

ROBERT M. BRIDGES, MEMBER

BRIAN G. CONNER, MEMBER

CRAIG A. SMITH, MEMBER

BRADLEY A. BERKEMEIER, MEMBER

BRIAN J. SHEEHAN, MEMBER

ATTEST:

ANN L. COPLEY, CLERK-TREASURER